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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

UNICEF Maurice Pate Award

SUMMARY

The Executive Director recommends that, for 1998, the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be presented to the Pacific Regional Human Rights Education Resource Team and that the Executive Board approve an allocation of \$25,000 from general resources for this purpose.

1. Nominations for the 1998 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award were invited from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives and regional directors, and National Committees for UNICEF in order to ensure a broad range of nominations. A total of 11 nominations were received as follows: four from Africa; one from the Americas and the Caribbean; two from Asia; two from Central and Eastern Europe; one from Europe; and one from the Middle East and North Africa.
2. After a careful review of all the nominations, the Bureau endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Director that the 1998 UNICEF Maurice Pate Award be conferred upon the Pacific Regional Human Rights Education Resource Team, in recognition of its significant contribution to the field of human rights education, including child rights, through a pioneering role in developing an awareness and knowledge of human rights in the Pacific Region.
3. The Pacific Regional Human Rights Education Resource Team is dedicated to improving the capacity of government and civil society organizations to promote human rights in the Pacific island region, with a functional emphasis on building the capacity of others. The Team's special focus is on the legal and human rights of women and children.

* E/ICEF/1998/2.

4. As a pioneering effort in the region, the Team has demonstrated extraordinary merit and extensive reach of influence and effects throughout the region, inspiring replication of approach and encouraging a broad sector of combined government and civil society participation. The main reach of the Team is at the grass-roots community level, where lack of knowledge of the law and legal rights, and difficulties of access to the legal system are most acute. By teaching young people and women about the law and their legal rights, the Team assists civil society to make the Government and judicial system more accountable.

5. The Team has directly raised awareness about Pacific island Constitutions, laws, human rights, gender and the application of United Nations Conventions among rural and urban women, youth groups, civil society activists, social welfare officers, police officers, religious seminarians, magistrates, justices, senior court judges and other providers of the justice system in the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Team has established a resource team that has trained these groups on gender equality and human rights issues.

6. Through its efforts, a network of seven legal rights training officers has been created to improve the understanding and protection of human rights in the region. Through this network, legal literacy and rights education programmes can be designed and delivered at the grass-roots level. The seven legal rights training officers are responsible for introducing the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the community. They also conduct seminars and speak to schools and youth groups on legal rights and the rights of the child.

7. The Team has also provided training for two theatre groups, in Fiji and Vanuatu, in the technique of "Forum Theatre", an educational and developmental tool particularly designed for work with groups with difficulties in more formal settings. The Team has supported youth coordinators in the Cook Islands to allow youth to articulate their concerns and identify their problems. Further workshops have been requested to reach out to more young people and to include sessions with parents, as most problems are family-based. The team has also participated in workshops on reducing drug use and on assisting street children.

8. The Team has assisted organizations and institutions to lobby for changes in the law and in its practice, and to improve the service of these institutions to the public through seminars and other methods. A continuing area of conflict is how customary law and the formal legal system conflict. Special attention is paid to how Pacific islanders might develop unique solutions which will allow them to adopt and apply international human rights laws while also retaining those customary laws and practices which give them identity as a people.

9. In Kiribati, for example, women's organizations and the Department of Women's Affairs, together with the Team, drafted and submitted to the Government a petition outlining discriminatory provisions affecting children's and women's rights in the Constitution. The Government has accepted these submissions and is engaged in promised reform of the discriminatory provisions. In Fiji, legal and financial assistance in lobbying, advocacy and drafting with 24 non-governmental organizations brought about unprecedented constitutional reform. The new Constitution, to come into effect in July 1998, has removed all citizenship discrimination against women and their children and an anti-sex discrimination clause has been further refined. The Government adopted, word for word, the legislation proposed and drafted with the support of the Team. Training was also provided to the Small Claims Tribunal Referees and Justices of the High Courts of Niue and Cook Islands.

Background of the Award

10. At a special session on 11 November 1965, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the Executive Director that the Nobel Peace Prize money received by UNICEF be used to establish a fund in memory of Maurice Pate, the first Executive Director of UNICEF (E/ICEF/537). Approval in principle was also given to a suggestion that the fund be used to strengthen the training or experience of people serving in child welfare-related fields in countries with which UNICEF was cooperating. It was believed that a memorial fund which contributed actively to the general purpose of UNICEF would have particularly appealed to Mr. Pate.

11. In May 1966, the Board approved a plan submitted by the Executive Director (E/ICEF/542, paras. 76-83) for a memorial fund that would give recognition to the value of regional training facilities in fields benefiting children. Each year the fund would honour an institution in a developing country which adapted and offered its services to people from countries in the region. The institution selected would be given some modest assistance to strengthen its services to other developing countries.

12. By the end of 1978, the original funding and contributions for this Award were exhausted and, in 1979, the Executive Board approved the continuation of the Award from general resources (E/ICEF/P/L.1906 (REC)).

13. At its 1988 session, the Executive Board approved the recommendation that the Board confer annually the UNICEF Maurice Pate Award, as detailed in document E/ICEF/1988/P/L.37, for extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children, whether on a national, regional or global scale. The Award could be conferred upon an institution, organization or individual with or without government affiliation. A timetable and procedures for the nomination and selection process were to be established by the secretariat (see E/ICEF/1988/13, annex I, paras. 45-47, and decision 1988/9).

14. By broadening the criteria for recognition to include (a) achievements on behalf of children, (b) provision of resources to further those achievements and (c) the creation of examples lending themselves to emulation, the Executive Board can use the Award to encourage significant efforts on behalf of children. While encouraging leadership for children by individuals, the monetary benefits of the Award can be used to further relevant activities, whether training, experience exchange or direct programme activity.

15. The Executive Board reviewed and revised the selection process and criteria in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1994. The latest procedures and criteria as approved by the Board are contained in document E/ICEF/1994/L.16. According to those procedures, nominations shall be sought from the Governments of Board member countries, UNICEF representatives, regional directors and other secretariat offices and National Committees for UNICEF, and the Bureau shall review all nominations. The Award may not be conferred upon any Government or head of State or Government or upon any United Nations organization or official. The main criteria for the Award are: (a) extraordinary and exemplary leadership in, and contribution to, the advancement of the survival, protection and development of children; (b) innovative and inspirational work; (c) action on a national or regional scale with the potential for emulation; and (d) action that serves to encourage voluntary and grass-roots activities. Lastly, due regard shall be given to equitable geographical balance.

16. The UNICEF Maurice Pate Award has been given as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Institution</u>	<u>Region</u>
Prior to 1980	Various institutions	Africa, Asia, Americas and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, industrialized countries and global
1981	College of Health Sciences, Bahrain	Middle East and North Africa
1982	University of the West Indies (regional institution)	Americas and the Caribbean
1983	Pan-African Institute for Development	Africa
1984	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh	Global
1985	National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, India	South Central Asia
1986	The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Global
1987	The Catholic Church of El Salvador	Americas and the Caribbean
1988	Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Movement), Indonesia	East Asia and Pakistan
1989	Madame Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt	Middle East and North Africa
1990	Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti, Nigeria	West and Central Africa
1991	Child-to-Child Trust, United Kingdom	Industrialized countries
1992	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, Bangladesh	South Asia
1993	The People and State of Ceara, Brazil	Americas and the Caribbean
1994	All-China Women's Federation, China	East Asia and the Pacific
1995	Professor Ihsan Dogramaci, Turkey	Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States
1996	Regional Centre for Health and Development, Benin	West and Central Africa
1997	Legal Assistance Centre, Namibia	Eastern and Southern Africa
